

The Great Gatsby
Chapter 1 Questions

Answer each of the following thoroughly and in COMPLETE sentences.

1. What is the advice the narrator's father gives to the narrator?
 - a. The advice the narrator's father gives to the narrator is that "Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had."
2. Because of that advice, what is the narrator inclined to do? Is he successful? Explain.
 - a. Because of the advice, the narrator is inclined to reserve all judgements, "a habit that has opened up many curious natures." He was "privy to the secret griefs of wild, unknown men" because they opened their mind to Nick. The reason to reserve judgements is that if you live up to your own moral standards, then you will misunderstand the meanings.
3. How does the narrator feel when he comes back from the East?
 - a. When he comes back from the East, the narrator feels that the world would be a better place if it was uniform and at a moral attention. This was because he didn't want any excursions.
4. In which community does the narrator rent a house? Where is it located? Who does he live next to?
 - a. He rented a house at West Egg at the very tip of the egg. Jay Gatsby lives next to the narrator.
5. Describe the house he rents and the view it has.
 - a. The house is "squeezed between two huge places that rented for twelve or fifteen thousand a season." His house was an eye-sore, but a small one. He had a view of the water, a partial view of his neighbor's lawn and the consoling proximity of millionaires.
6. What relation is Daisy to the narrator?
 - a. Daisy is the narrator's second cousin.
7. Describe Tom's physical appearance.
 - a. Tom's physical appearance is very tough and strong looking football player. He was wearing a riding clothes. This quote describes Tom's physical appearance. "Now he was a sturdy straw-haired man of thirty with a rather hard mouth and a supercilious manner. Two shining arrogant eyes had established dominance over his face and gave him the appearance of leaning aggressively forward... you could see a great pack of muscle when his shoulder moved under his thin coat."
8. Describe Tom's personality. Explain in detail
 - a. Tom's personality is very arrogant, cocky, and supercilious. Because he is from a wealthy family, he is very firm in his ideas and feel proud about himself. He is very irritable. Tom once says to Nick, "Now, don't think my opinion on these matters are final just because I'm stronger and more of a man than you are." Tom is also a very racist person who thinks that the white race was going to be overtaken.

9. Explain how Tom's physical appearance mirrors his personality.
 - a. His two shining, arrogant eyes had established dominance over his face and gave him the appearance of always leaning aggressively forward. He had a body capable of enormous leverage- a cruel body. Also, his voice was a gruff husky tenor, which added the impression of fractiousness. Thus, many men hated his guts.
10. What is the narrator's name? What does he do?
 - a. The narrator's name is Nick Caraway and he came from a rich family in the middle-western city. He is now involved in a bond business at West Egg.
11. Which book does Tom feel everyone should read? What is it about? What does it tell us about Tom?
 - a. Tom feels that everyone should read 'The Rise of the Coloured Empires' by Goddard. This shows that he is very racist because the book is about that "if we don't look out the white race will be- will be utterly submerged."
12. Who supposedly calls while Tom is eating dinner? What does Jordan tell Nick about the phone call?
 - a. Supposedly, Tom's woman in New York called him that night. Jordan tells that Tom has an affair with the woman at New York and that almost everybody is aware of it.
13. Why does Daisy cry when she finds out that she has had a baby girl?
 - a. Because she realized that girl will have a harder life than man as she experienced it. When she woke out of the ether, she was abandoned because Tom wasn't there at all. When the nurse said the child was a girl, she wept, so she prayed her daughter to be a fool because a fool will have much easier and less stressing life than those like Daisy's.
14. Who does Nick see at the end of chapter 1?
 - a. At the end of chapter 1, Nick sees Gatsby who emerged from the shadow of his neighbor's mansion coming out to determine what share was his of our local heavens.
15. Why doesn't Nick call out to him? What is the man looking at?
 - a. He didn't call him because he gave Nick a sudden intimation that he was content to be alone by stretching out his arms toward the dark water in a curious way.